

SENATE BILL 3605
By Person, Curtis

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36,
Chapter 1 and Title 36, Chapter 2, relative to
adoption and parentage.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-1-102, is amended by deleting
subdivision (36) and by substituting instead the following:

(36) "Parent(s)" means any biological guardian, and any legal, adoptive parent(s)
or, for purposes of §§ 36-1-127 - 36-1-141, stepparents; provided, a progenitor of a child
who is not a legal parent shall never possess or be considered to possess parental
rights in relation to the subject child until, if ever, after a court has so adjudicated, in
response to a petition to establish parentage; provided further, no court shall ever
adjudicate a petition to establish parentage filed by a progenitor who is not a legal
parent, in favor of the progenitor, by default judgment or without having first appointed a
guardian ad litem to represent the interests of the subject child.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006, the public welfare requiring it.